

Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCCT-02 PER-05 A-01 MMS-03 ABF-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 048485

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE,
MANAGUA

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

PANAMANFOR RSS AND RSO

REFERENCE: (1) MANAGUA 0657; (2) DEPARTMENT'S OM DATED
JANUARY 17, 1974

1. SY AND ARA HAVE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY THE POST'S ARGUMENTS (REF (1)) AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT OF AN RSO IN MANAGUA. SINCE THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FACTORS, NOT HERETOFORE OUTLINED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO THE POST AS RATIONALE FOR PLACING AN RSO IN MANAGUA, THEY FOLLOW HEREWITH.

2. APPROVAL OF THE FY-74 TERRORIST AMENDMENT REPRESENTS THE FIRST INSTANCE THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL MANPOWER AND FUNDS TO DEAL WITH CURRENT AND/OR
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POTENTIAL TERRORIST SITUATION. IN ADDITION TO THE ASSIGN-

MENT OF AN RSO IN THIS CASE, THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO ASSIGN A SECRETARY TO MANAGUA FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OF THE RSO. THE RSO WOULD COVER, IN ADDITION TO MANAGUA, TEGUCIGALPA AND SAN SALVADOR.

3. RSO/PANAMA PRESENTLY PROVIDES SECURITY SERVICES TO FIVE MISSIONS. THIS SITUATION DOES NOT PERMIT THE IN-DEPTH COVERAGE OR AMOUNT OF ATTENTION THE DEPARTMENT FEELS IS NECESSARY FOR A SOUND OR THOROUGH PREVENTATIVE AND PROTECTIVE SECURITY PROGRAM.

4. ALTHOUGH POST SECURITY SERVICES RENDERED BY THE RSO AND POST SECURITY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN GOOD AND, AS THE POST POINTS OUT, HEAVY RELIANCE HAS BEEN PLACED ON NICARAGUAN SECURITY FORCES WHO ARE AMONG THE BEST FOR PROTECTION OF INSTALLATIONS AND PERSONNEL, THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WORLD-WIDE HAVE BEEN INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE PAST YEAR. THE ILLOGICAL PATTERNS OF SUCH ACTIVITY RENDER NO MISSION OR ITS PERSONNEL IMMUNE FROM ATTACK.

5. IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SITUATION, ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF NEW SECURITY PROGRAMS NOW BEING INSTITUTED ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS WILL REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT'S SECURITY OFFICERS TO ORGANIZE AND EXECUTE SECURITY PROGRAM WHICH WILL HAVE THE GREATEST DETERRING INFLUENCE ON PLANS OF POTENTIAL TERRORISTS, IMPROVE THE PROTECTION OF INSTALLATIONS AND PERSONNEL AGAINST ATTACK AND PROVIDE THE CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL PRESENCE REQUIRED TO COPE WITH THE HIGHER THREAT LEVEL RAMPANT IN TODAY'S WORLD. NEW AND INCREASED AMOUNTS OF DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT, GUARD TRAINING PROGRAMS AND OTHER PROTECTIVE MATTERS REQUIRING MORE POSITIVE CONTROL BY PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS MAY RESTRICT THEIR ABILITY TO COVER WIDE REGIONS AS IN THE PAST. FOR THIS REASON, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT ADDITIONAL RSO IN CENTRAL AMERICA COULD BE UTILIZED MOST PROFITABLY, AND FEELS MANAGUA IS THE MOST SUITABLE AND LOGICAL LOCATION FOR THE RSO.

6. IF THE LEVEL OF THREAT DIMINISHES AND THE SECURITY
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PROGRAMS IN MANAGUA, TEGUCIGALPA AND SAN SALVADOR ARE COMPLETELY AND PROPERLY DEVELOPED TO THE POINT WHERE RSO IS NO LONGER NEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT PREPARED TRANSFER HIM.

7. SY WITH ARA CONCURRENCE STRONGLY URGES EMBASSY RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON ASSIGNMENT OF AN RSO AND SECRETARY TO MANAGUA IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING. KISSINGER

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